

Mali desert locust situation update for the second dekad of October, 2005

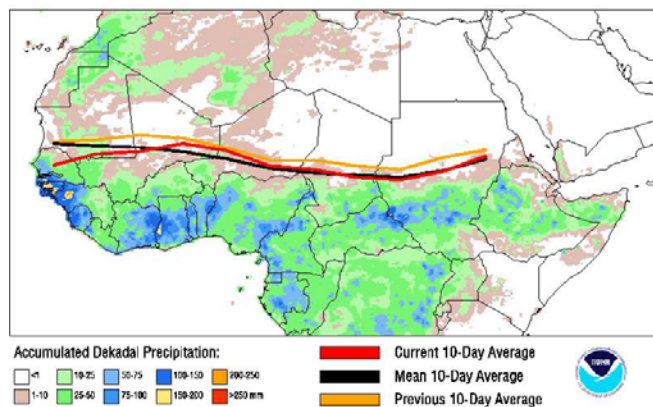
Summary

The desert locust situation remained calm in the outbreak areas in Mali during the second dekad of October, 2005 and significant development is not expected.

Meteorological and ecological conditions

The ITCZ fluctuated mostly remained near normal average during the first dekad of October but receded further south in the second dekad. As a result, the summer rains have stopped in most of the Sahel West, with the exception of the recent rain in southern and northwestern Mauritania. Vegetation continued drying up with a few patches of green vegetation observed in most of the gregarization areas in Mali and elsewhere in the region.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
October 2005 Dekad 1



Locust situation

The locust situation remained relatively calm throughout the outbreak areas in the country. Control operations were not necessary during the reporting period.

Actions taken

The 5 ground survey teams deployed to the desert locust outbreak areas earlier returned to Gao on October 2005. Three ground survey and control teams, assisted by a national consultant, will be carrying out surveys over the coming several weeks.

Forecast

A few individual locusts will continue grouping in patches of green vegetation, but significant developments are not likely.

Pesticides

DPV/Mali has stocked more than 258,301 liters of ULV pesticides in Bamako and its regional facilities and similar stocks are currently available in other locust-affected countries in the region. With a significant reduction in treatable targets and a much decreased consumption rate, there is a perceived concern over a potential build up of obsolete products in the region. Proper handling, storage, judicious use and pesticide triangulations can be viewed as alternative options to avoiding this problem.

Locust situation elsewhere

A significant reduction in locust numbers is manifested in most of the summer breeding areas. Only small-scale breeding was reported in Tagant and Brakna, Mauritania, in Timetrine, Tamesna and Air, Niger, and in Tamanrasset, Algeria. Isolated adults were detected in NE Chad but survey was halted in western Darfur due to the security situation. According to an FAO report, localized breeding is in progress on the Red Sea coasts of Yemen and small groups of adults and hoppers/bands were seen and controlled in 2,000 ha in Rajasthan, India adjacent to the Pakistan border in October. Locust numbers are on the increasing side in these parts of Pakistan. Active surveillance and monitoring are essential.

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